



SUGAR LAND BIBLE CHURCH  
"BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE FOR 37 YEARS  
1982-2019"

*April*

**THE CORNERSTONE**

**APRIL 2019**



## **New Bible Study for Young Mothers**

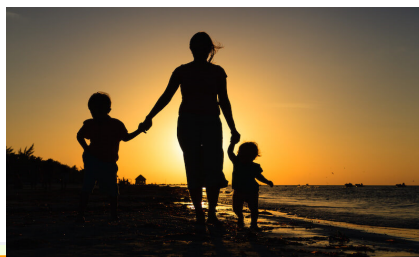
**A Young Mother's Bible Study will begin on Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and every Thursday thereafter until sometime in May.**

**Betty Cooke & Kim Pierson will co-teach the class. Lunch will be provided and while they are eating, someone will give the recipe and tips on how to make the food.**

**The model for the Bible study will be from Titus 2:4-5. The first class is about "Love Your Husband".**

**The second class, and each following, will be from "Shepherding a Child's Heart. For the last 30 minutes, there will be mini-classes about being a keeper of the home, such as simple sewing.**

**Since food is provided, the mothers must sign up for the class. Childcare is provide and each mother will need to bring a lunch for her children.**



## Missions for the Month



### Patrick and Debbie O'Connor,

Training and mentoring for Church Planting

<http://e3partners.org/about-us/>

Safely home from NE Peru – Feb 18, 2019 – a very full trip! A highlight of our seven city 17 day trip was to be in very river communities with in-area leaders. Layer upon layer relationships allowed us to ‘go deep’ and deeper with a number of key pastors and in-country leaders. But it was hot! We both kept ourselves hydrated, yet the 24 hour/day heat was daunting. Our co-workers (with whom we were facilitating various workshops) met us in respective towns and were co-trainers with us. This was by design but it was especially good as it ‘groomed’ them for their role. Highlights:

~ Time at the Lima, Peru at the South America Mission Guest house on the front and back end of the trip allowed us to shift gears for our comings and goings. We met several in-country USA missionaries, some of whom went to Moody Bible Institute (our alma mater).

~ Time in Tarapoto town on Río Huallaga with Jhon Linares and others to “spur them on for love and good deeds”. Also, to plan and pray about a follow-up ministry in various areas. Jhon was with me Africa in December, 2018 and India (2015).



~ Time in Yurimaquas town (also on the Río Huallaga) to have slow time with Pastor Willington and Pastor Ludwer (and their respective church members), but to also challenge them for on-going outreach.

~ Time in “Santo Auturo” river community (also on the Río Huallaga) to visit with a church there to train and inspire them for God’s important go go go purposes for all of us. Pastor Ludwer of Yurimaquas accompanied us for what he called this ‘mini-missions’ up-river trip but later told us that it had been his first time up-river, due to fear fear fear of the river, the water and small boats!





**Andy Woods—Pastor**

## Twenty-Four Church and Israel Distinctions (Part 9)

One of the most rudimentary distinctions that the child of God needs to learn to rightly divide God's Word (2 Tim. 2:15) is the basic distinction between Israel and the Church. A common mistake in Bible interpretation is to take God's promises that are aimed at national Israel and instead to indiscriminately apply them to the Church and consequently the Church Age believer. There are, at a bare minimum, at least *twenty-four* differences between the Church and Israel. The purpose of this series is to highlight these basic differences. In prior installments, we saw the following distinctions: while Israel is the wife of Jehovah, the Church is the bride of Christ. Moreover, Israel birthed Christ whereas Christ birthed the Church. In addition, Christ will return for the Church in the Rapture while Christ will return for Israel at the end of the Tribulation period. Furthermore, while Jesus is the King of Israel, He is the groom and head of the Church. While eighty percent of the Bible relates to Israel, a mere twenty percent of it relates to the Church. Also, while Israel was a party to the Biblical covenants, the Church is a mere third-party beneficiary to them. In addition, another very significant difference between Israel and the Church is that the two entities have different birthdays. While Israel started in Genesis 12, the Church began in Acts 2. Moreover, while Israel is a political nation, the Church is a spiritual organism. Also, while the Israel fought physical battles, the Church fights spiritual battles. Furthermore, although Israel is characterized by time texts and calendars, the Church has no similar characteristics. In this installment, we will examine *two* further distinctions.

### Distinction Number 11: The Priesthood

The nation of Israel had a priesthood. Not only did the priest have to come from the tribe of Levi, they also needed to be a descendant of Aaron's lineage. Not just anyone could volunteer for the Old Testament priesthood. In fact, Hebrews 5:4 says, "And no one takes the honor to himself, but receives it when he is called by God, even as Aaron was." In other words, you had to be genealogically qualified to be a priest in the nation of Israel in Old Testament times.

When you read passages like Exodus 28, and many others, you see the priesthood's garments described in detail. You can read about what the priest was to wear on his head, what the priest was to clothe his body with, the bells that were placed at the hem of his garments, and the incense that the priest was to bring into the Holy of Holies. Such instructions are incredible in terms of detail.

When you get to the New Testament, there are no similar instructions given to the Church. There is no singular group of people within the Church that are designated as priests. Within Israel there was a smaller group that qualified as priests. Not so with the Church because everyone in the Church is automatically a priest. John writes in Revelation 1:6 concerning the Church, "and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen." In the Church Age we do not have people coming from a sect of the population which qualifies them to be priests. On the contrary every single believer in Christ is automatically a priest. While Israel *had* a priesthood, the Church *is* a priesthood. You may not look at yourself as a priest and you may not feel like a priest, but positionally speaking that is the identity God has given you. A priest simply represents God before man and man before God. We are given that role because we intercede for people, pray for people, and also represent God to a lost and dying world.

Today, if you go into some sectors of Protestantism and into Roman Catholicism, the priests are dressed up a lot like Aaron was in Old Testament times. What is happening in certain Churches is that only *some* people are looked at as priests. In fact, I grew up in the Episcopalian denomination where we had priests. Sadly, the priests were always removed from the people by being in a different décor, but there is no New Testament authority for this concept. They have transferred those Old Testament concepts into the New Testament Church partly because they are confused on this [Israel](#)–Church distinction.

As the Church gets more and more muddled about this Israel–Church distinction, it tends to go back into the Old Testament and selectively retrieve certain items out of it that they like, such as having a certain class of people within the Church called priests and have them dress up in purple robes. However, in the New Testament, as it is describing the Church, it never articulates anything like this. The only biblical support you can find for it is in the Old Testament regarding the nation of Israel. If you are in a Church that has priests and you are confessing your sins to these priests, then essentially what is happening is you are in a Church that has gotten very fuzzy in terms of the Israel–Church distinction.

## Distinction Number 12: The Temple

Israel had a physical temple. When going through the Old Testament what you find is God manifests His presence in, first, a tabernacle. A tabernacle was like a mobile temple that the nation of Israel carried around with them before they entered their land of Canaan. Ultimately, the tabernacle became an actual physical structure called the temple. This physical structure called the temple permanently resided in Jerusalem and was first built by Solomon. First Kings 6:1 says, “Now it came about in the four hundred and eightieth year after the sons of Israel came out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon’s reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.” The “house of the LORD” is the actual physical construction of the temple in Jerusalem. David, as you may recall, was a man of war and therefore he was not given the privilege of building an actual temple. Instead that privilege went to Solomon. The word “Solomon” is connected to the Hebrew word “*shalom*,” which means peace. Consequently, Solomon was given the privilege of building the first temple.

As you go through the Bible you will see that there are *four* temples in the history of Israel: two past and two future. You have the temple built by Solomon around 966 B.C. that we just read about in First Kings 6:1. That temple was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in the days of Daniel. Then, after the seventy-year deportation, the children of Israel went back into the land and rebuilt the temple, which you can read about in the book of Ezra. This temple initially was so small that the older men wept when they saw it because it so paled in comparison to the majesty and glory of the Solomonic Temple (Ezra 3:12; Haggai 2:3). This was the same temple that Herod eventually took and beautified. Of this renovation project, John 2:20 says of this temple, “The Jews then said, ‘It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?’”

By the time you get to the life of Christ, that second temple is the one that is functioning as the temple that Jesus went into when He was twelve and confounded the religious leaders with His wisdom (Luke 2:46). It is also the temple that the devil put Him on the pinnacle of and said to throw Himself from (Luke 4:9). Do you recall who destroyed this second temple? The Romans did so in A.D. 70, and consequently ever since that time, Israel has not had a temple. But prophetically we know there is going to be a third temple built by the nation of Israel that the antichrist will desecrate midway through the Tribulation period.

By way of review, the nation of Israel has had *two* past temples, Solomon’s *pre*-exilic temple as seen in Kings and Chronicles, and Zerubbabel’s *post* exilic temple as seen in Ezra 1-6 and John 2:20. The prophetic Scripture predicts a coming *third* temple to be desecrated by the Antichrist. Daniel 9:27 says, “And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.” Matthew 24:15 also speaks of this third future temple: “Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand).” Additionally, Paul writes about it in 2 Thessalonians 2:4: “who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.” Finally, John also writes about the Antichrist’s temple in Revelation 11:1-2: “Then there was given me a measuring rod like a staff; and someone said, ‘Get up and measure the temple of God and the altar, and those who worship in it. Leave out the court which is outside the temple and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations; and they will tread under foot the holy city for forty-two months.’”

~ Time in Lamas town with one leader's wife for slow eyeball to eyeball interaction on a wide range of personal issues.

~ Time in Iquitos town on the Amazon for a two day workshop, which I (Patrick) co-led with area leader Michael Muñoz. Debbie also had extended time with the ladies.

~ Time in river community "San Pablo" (seven hours down river on the Amazon) for three nights where Patrick co-trained with Debbie and Michael Muñoz for a two day workshop.

~ Time in Arequipa city in the Andes for our final three day leg of this trip with two church plants. Patrick had high altitude laryngitis, but that proved to be a blessing! We ponder often, "does our coming along side in-country leaders on their turf, in their language for their ministry in God's design?" really effect change for His purposes? Deb and I hope so and so we extend ourselves for this hope. Life proceeds quickly and it seems "only yesterday" that we were younger and stronger with more go go go energy. We used to live in Latin America and yet now -- in a good sort of way -- our USA home base allows for various 'global mentor coaching' ops around the globe.

( ) Please pray with us to use our energies for His purposes.

( ) Please pray with us that His glory and His will would be revealed through us and through those with whom we minister.

Bless you!

<https://youtu.be/kVR82NqIPp8> Watch "Río Huallaga Community Feb 2019. 25 second video. Patrick and Debbie" on YouTube

Thanks,

***Patrick and Debbie***

\_\_\_\_ Please pray with us as we travel to Honduras to train others for His eternal purposes.

1. **Safe travels to Honduras and within Honduras** (many locations which include: Tegucigalpa, Gracias de Lempira, Puerto Lempira of the Moskito Coast, San Pedro Sula, Esperanza de Intibuca and Copan Ruinas).
2. **Safe and effective relations in ministry.**
3. **Long daily quiet times.**
4. **Safe return to our home base in WA on April 10** (via a stop over in Houston).

Each day Debbie and I ask the Lord to live His love through us. We remain imperfect, yet we thank the Lord for His grace and also that you are a part of this journey. Thank you!

We discovered this verse in the book of Daniel this month: "The wise people will shine as bright as the sky. Those who teach others to live right will shine like stars forever and ever." We hope to live our lives wisely and properly for His great purposes and glory! Pray with us to that end.

***Patrick O'Connor***

Training and Mentoring for Church Planting

**The O'Connors will be at SLBC on April 7 to present a Missions' Moment during the 11:00 AM service.**



## “WHO’s Who at SLBC”

by Ashlynn Morris

### The Share-A-Meal Ministry

The Share-A-Meal ministry is a special part of SLBC. This ministry blesses people with meals, who have a sickness, newborn, or loss of a loved one. The Share-A-Meal Ministry depends on volunteers who graciously prepare meals for families who need them most. With enough volunteers, the ministry can provide meals for as long as the recipient needs them. The coordinator of this wonderful ministry is Mrs. Lisa Camplen, who also assists with the children’s ministry. “The desire of this ministry is to show love and support to individuals and families during their time of need. As the coordinator, I assess meal needs with a potential recipient and coordinate the details via email to our group of meal volunteers. The email includes a link to an online calendar where volunteers can sign up for a day and time to provide a meal. Meals can be homemade, restaurant takeout, or even something like a rotisserie chicken and side dish from the deli,” she said.

Mrs. Camplen has been married to her husband, Charlie, who is a SLBC elder, for 25 years. They have two daughters, Allison who is married and is a nurse, and Lindsey, who is a sophomore at Texas Tech University. She and her family have been attending SLBC for 8 years. Mrs. Camplen’s hobbies include gardening, spending time in the great outdoors, reading and studying the Word with fellow believers, and serving the church.

Her current favorite Bible verse is Ephesians 4:29, “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.” When I asked her what her favorite attribute of God was, her answer was very encouraging. “Each of God’s attributes are amazing, interconnected parts of His whole being. The fact that ‘God is Immutable’ is very encouraging to me. He is unchangeable. I can count on His character and attributes being constant and unalterable...never changing. Wow! God does not change His mind, His plans or His Word, which stands forever (Isa 40:8). However, people and the world we live in are always changing. As individuals, we deal with change and challenges in our daily lives (thoughts, emotions, actions, plans, etc.). There is real comfort in knowing we can always rely on a perfect and unchanging God and confidently trust His Word and promises every day of our lives.”

Mrs. Lisa is an amazing person and a wonderful friend, always ready to give you a friendly smile and a warm hug. She is a blessing to SLBC. I hope you get the chance to get to know her if you haven’t already.

If you are interested in helping with the Share A Meal Ministry, Mrs. Camplen would love your support and appreciate your wanting to help.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## A Piano Recital with Hyeree Roux



Hyeree Roux, one of our SLBC pianists, will be giving a piano recital in our sanctuary on Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is invited.

PLEASE NOTE: CHILDCARE WILL NOT BE PROVIDED FOR THIS EVENT.

Dear SLBC Church Family,

We are scheduling our Summer Baptism Classes now.

If you or a family member desire to be baptized, please respond to this email with **THE FULL NAME OF YOUR CANDIDATE FOR BAPTISM** as it should appear on their Baptismal Certificate. Please note that all candidates for baptism are required to attend "one" scheduled baptism class prior to being baptized.



As soon as we have an idea of how many candidates we have, we will send out another informational email with class details. Please contact the SLBC office at 281-491-7773 if you desire to be baptized. Thank you!

SLBC Office

281-491-7773



## Scripture for the Month!

### *Hebrews 1:1-4NASB*

**G**od, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

I believe that the third temple is going to be destroyed in the seventh bowl judgment that is described in Revelation 16:17-21. It talks there (Rev. 16:18) about the greatest earthquake in human history. This third temple will be replaced by a *fourth* temple called the Millennial temple, which is what Ezekiel is speaking of in such tremendous detail in Ezekiel 40–48. That is the temple that the Shekinah glory of God will re-enter. As you might recall, the Shekinah glory of God entered the Solomonic temple and left just before that temple was destroyed by the Babylonians. Ezekiel predicts a future time in the Millennial Kingdom where that fourth temple will similarly be indwelt by the Shekinah glory of God. My point in all this is that Israel not only had but also will have a physical building called the temple.

Compare that to the Church. What acts as the temple in this Church Age? Our bodies are the temple. What a unique and different concept. First Corinthians 6:19 says, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?” If you are a believer in Christ, then the Holy Spirit has permanently taken up residence *in* you (John 14:16; Rom. 8:9). This reality becomes Paul’s whole basis for exhorting the Corinthians to live a holy life because when we join ourselves to sin as Christians, we are simultaneously involving the Holy Spirit in that same sin, whatever it may be. We are living in an incredibly privileged time period when the human body *is* the temple of the Living God.

Also notice First Corinthians 3:16, “Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? In context, First Corinthians 3:16 is teaching that not only is your body the temple of the Holy Spirit but our corporate gathering together in worship is also an opportunity for God to manifest His presence. In other words, the corporate gathering of the Church is the habitation of God. Therefore, in the Church Age, we, individually, are the temple of God and we, corporately, are also the temple of God. Old Testament saints could have never imagined that the manifestation of God’s presence would be anything other than in a physical building. Consequently, this spiritual reality becomes another key difference between Israel and the Church. Israel had a physical temple, but in the Church Age, our body is the temple of God.

What have we seen thus far in our series? Israel is different than the Church in the sense that Israel is the wife of Jehovah and the Church is the bride of Christ. Furthermore, Israel birthed Christ whereas Christ birthed the Church. In addition, Christ will return for the Church in the Rapture while Christ will return for Israel at the end of the Tribulation period. Moreover, while Jesus is the King of Israel, He is the groom and head of the Church. While eighty percent of the Bible relates to Israel, a mere twenty percent of it relates to the Church. Also, while Israel was a party to the Biblical covenants, the Church is a mere third-party beneficiary to them. In addition, while Israel began in Genesis 12, the Church began in Acts 2. Furthermore, while Israel is a political nation, the Church is a spiritual organism. Also, while the Israel fought physical battles, the Church fights spiritual battles. Moreover, although Israel is characterized by time texts and calendars, the Church has no similar characteristic. In addition, while Israel had a priesthood, the Church is a priesthood. Finally, although Israel had a physical structure called the temple, today the temple of God consists of not only the believer’s individual body but also the corporate gathering of God’s people. These major distinctions constitute the first *twelve* of the *twenty-four* differences between Israel and the Church that will be highlighted in this series.

(To Be Continued...)

